Portland
19 March 1877

Dear Mr Garrison

31 I am waiting with no little anxiety to see what will come of the new departure. I am not willing to think that we have been mistaken in our view of the good sense and sound judgment of Mr Hayes. this his extraordinary purpose of making the rebel general Johnson Sec'y. of War - was a rude

shock. A friend of
mine, in Brooklyn - N. Y.
was at the inauguration
and he had a very good
view of the Pres[t]. He
writes me that he re-
sembles very closely, a
member of my regiment
- who was in an inferior
location - and a man of
very small ability.
Curiously enough, he
met this man on the
street in Washington, and
told him of the resemblance.
He reply was, that others
had made the same remark!

During the war. he must have had the same Experience as the rest of us - of the bitter-bitter hate of the Southerners for all northerners and for "free niggers". It would be hard to tell which the Southerners hates most.

There was no other influence so powerful as that of The Tribune in the readmission of the rebel states to the Union - At the time. I thought it a fearful mistake - and I shall be so glad to find myself

mistaken - if it shall turn out to be a wise policy. I see no security in it then to the blacks and I see none now. May it please God to overrule it for the best. I was at New Orleans with Butler and Banks - the latter tried the amiable policy - and made a mess of it. The loyal men told me, they were worse off than the rebels! Let's hope for the best - Watch and wait.

I am most truly yours

Neal Dow